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RICHMOND, VA., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1916.—FOURTEEN PAGES.

WEATHER
PAGE 1 —FAIR

PRICE, TWO CENTS

FRENCH ENLARGE THEIR POSITIONS NORTH OF SOMME

Make New Gains Opposite
Comblès; Storm Trenches
Near Le Priez Farm.

TOTAL OF 2,300 PRISONERS
CAPTURED DURING TWO DAYS

Heavy Fighting All Along Mac-
cedonian Front, but Without
Important Changes.

ITALIAN FORCES JOIN IN FRAY

Russian Attacks Along Entire Front
in Carpathians Reported
Repulsed.

LONDON, September 13.—The French north of Peronne are holding tenaciously to the salient they have driven into the German line east of the Bethune-Peronne road, near Bouchavesnes. They hold intact, too, the town of Bouchavesnes, and other points along the line captured in the offensive started on Tuesday. Their capture of a powerfully organized German trench system south of the Le Priez farm, near the road running west from Hamcourt to Comblès, has put Comblès in further jeopardy.

Fighting in the region of Bouchavesnes has been sanguinary. Finding that the French had cut their line of communication from Peronne northward, the Germans threw violent attacks against LaBbe wood and hill 75, south of Bouchavesnes, and took both places. The French, however, returned to the attack, and after hard fighting, some hand-to-hand, finally drove out the Germans and kept the ground they had won.

In the two-day fighting more than 2,300 Germans were taken prisoner, and a large number of guns and machine guns were captured.

On the British Somme front the situation remains unchanged. South of the Somme heavy artillery duels between the French and Germans continue in the region of Vermandois, and Chaulnes. Repulse of a German attack near Fleury, in the Verdun section, is reported by Paris.

HEAVY FIGHTING RAGES
ALONG MACEDONIAN FRONT

Heavy fighting continues all along the Macedonian front, but no important changes are reported. The Italians have joined in the fray west of the Vardar River. Near Lake Butkovo Rome declares they have driven Bulgarian detachments beyond the Demir-Hissar-Dorlan road. The Bulgarians say, however, that the Italians were dispersed in this region with a loss of thirty men captured.

The British across the Struma River south of Lake Takovo have made no further efforts to advance, and in that region there are no developments.

In the Dobruja region of Roumania, the central powers are going forward with their preparations methodically, according to Berlin. In Transylvania the Germans have joined the Austrians near Hermannstadt, and southeast of Hottzing in fighting the invading Roumanians.

In the Carpathians, Russian attacks along the entire front have been repulsed, according to Vienna and Berlin. Petrograd says the Russians are holding all the ground they have won in this region.

German aeroplanes sank a Russian torpedo-boat destroyer in the Gulf of Riga, and attacked Russian naval forces in the Black Sea, off Constantia, Roumania. Besides the destroyer sunk, several other hits were observed in both the attacks, Berlin says.

FRENCH MAINTAIN ALL GAINS
ON THE CENTER AND RIGHT

PARIS, September 13.—North of the Somme, the French enlarged their positions opposite Comblès, and stormed new trenches south of Le Priez farm, says to-night's War Office statement. After desperate attacks the Germans repulsed a farm in LaBbe wood and hill 75. But both were retaken by the French, who maintained all their gains on the center and right.

AUSTRIANS IN TRANSYLVANIA
CONTINUE THEIR RETREAT

BUDAPEST, September 12 (via London, September 13).—The continued retreat of the Austrians in Transylvania is reported in an official announcement issued by the War Office today. The text of the statement follows:

"On the north and northwest front the enemy continues to retreat westward in the valleys of the upper Maros and Aluta Rivers."

"On the south front the navigation of enemy merchant ships on the Danube has been stopped. On the Dobruja front operations are progressing."

"Enemy aeroplanes bombarded the towns of Pitrat and Neamtus, killing an old man and seriously wounding two infants."

VILLAGE OF BOUCHAVESNES
CAPTURED BY FRENCH

PARIS, September 13.—The French have captured the village of Bouchavesnes, on the Somme front.

The official announcement of to-day says the village, which is in the region of Comblès, was taken from the Germans last evening.

The French also took by assault a wood 600 yards east of the road from Peronne to Bethune. On the Verdun front the French made progress in the northern part of the Vaux-Chapelle wood.

Dutch Steamship Antwerpen Sunk

First Foreign Ship Ever Built
at Newport News Destroyed
on Maiden Voyage.

LONDON, September 13.—Lloyd's Shipping Agency announces that the Dutch steamship Antwerpen has been sunk.

The Dutch steamer Antwerpen was a vessel of 11,300 tons, and was built at Newport News. She belonged to the Standard Oil Company, and left Newport News in her maiden voyage for New York August 24, and sailed August 31 from Bayonne, N. J., for London on her first trip across the Atlantic.

The Antwerpen was the first foreign ship ever built at Newport News. She was in command of Captain Herman Segbarth, who formerly commanded the oil tanker America. She was 460 feet long, 60 beam and 30 feet in depth. The steamer was an oil-burner, and carried wireless.

PRISONERS WELL TREATED

British White Paper Gives Findings of
American Visit to English
Internment Camps.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] LONDON, September 13.—In a white paper issued to-night the government makes public the findings of an American embassy official who has visited the military and civil internment camps in Great Britain. The document shows that few complaints and a remarkably low death rate, an example of which was found at Stots, where but twelve deaths occurred in eighteen months among the 1,000 prisoners there interned. At the Donington Hall hospital there were no patients and no deaths reported.

Prisoners at all the camps have their kitchen committees and make their own arrangements for instruction. They also have music and sports. At one camp there were fifty-five classes in modern languages, electricity, engineering, mathematics, drawing, shorthand and railway work.

Of the 1,500 men sent from Dorchester to work at Rouen, but thirty were returned as unfit physically.

CONFESSES TRAIN ROBBERY

Charles Jefferson Harrison Sentenced
to Twelve Years in Atlanta
Penitentiary.

MARTINSBURG, W. VA., September 13.—Charles Jefferson Harrison, of San Antonio, made a full confession of the train robbery with which he was charged, in the United States Court here today before Judge Dayton. Sentence of twelve years imprisonment in the penitentiary at Atlanta was immediately imposed.

Harrison presented a pathetic figure when he advanced to the bar to confess, after pleading not guilty yesterday to the nine indictments. Weak and emaciated by tuberculosis, his voice was scarcely audible.

The crime was the robbery of a Baltimore and Ohio train near Central Station, W. Va., on October 8, 1915. With Harrison was implicated Eugene Dies, who will be placed on trial next, and H. Grady Webb, who never has been arrested.

The robbers took from the express car of the train more than \$100,000 in unsigned bank notes, much of which has been recovered.

SERBIA MAY SEND MINISTER

Washington Begins Negotiations for
Establishment of Legation
in Capital City.

WASHINGTON, September 13.—Negotiations are in progress between the United States and Serbia for the appointment of a Serbian minister to this country. Serbia never has had a legation in Washington, being represented only by a consul general in New York, although the American minister, who represents the United States in Bulgaria and Roumania also is accredited to Serbia.

BRYAN ON EXTENDED TRIP

Will Visit Several Western and Central
States in Behalf of Wilson and
Marshall.

CHICAGO, September 13.—William J. Bryan will leave this week an extended speaking trip through Western and Central States in behalf of Wilson and Marshall, it was announced today. He will make his first speech at Reno, Nev., on September 18, and work eastward. Mr. Bryan will be in Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan the latter part of October, and spend the last week of the campaign in Nebraska.

COURTHOUSE DESTROYED

DeKalb County, Ga., Loses Most of Its
Records in Destructive
Fire.

DECATUR, GA., September 13.—The DeKalb County courthouse here was destroyed by fire, which started shortly after 5 o'clock this morning, and continued to burn for hours. Only a small part of the records were saved. The origin has not been definitely determined, but firemen first on the scene said they smelled an unmistakable odor of kerosene.

PULITZERS QUANTINED

Ten-Year-Old Son of New York Pub-
lisher Victim of Infantile
Paralysis.

BAL HARBOR, ME., September 13.—Joseph Pulitzer, Jr., the New York publisher, and his family were quarantined today at the Pulitzer summer estate here because of infantile paralysis. Mr. Pulitzer's son, Ralph, ten years old, has contracted the disease, it was announced.

SENATOR MARTIN SURE OF VICTORY

Declares Success of Wilson's Ad-
ministration Insures His
Re-Election.

HOPEFUL OF NINTH DISTRICT

Delivers Address to State Com-
mittee, Which Meets to Select
Elector-at-Large.

"I predict a splendid Wilson victory. Nowhere, so far as I can see, are there indications that our great President will not be re-elected by a safe majority. If the people of this country have any appreciation of wonderful achievements and of strict fidelity to party pledges, they will be compelled to respond to our appeal for continuance of the administration."

"With President Wilson to direct and to give his wise counsel, the Democratic Congress within a period of four years has carried out the most constructive legislative program that, in my opinion, has been effected during the last forty years. The record of the administration has been nothing short of wonderful, and the people will not fail to continue it."

Thus spoke Senator Thomas S. Martin, senior Senator from Virginia and one of the foremost Democrats of the nation, in addressing last night at Murphy's Hotel members of the Democratic State Committee and prominent party men from every section of the State, gathered specifically to elect a successor to Senator E. Lee Trinkle as elector-at-large from Virginia, and, incidentally, to take counsel over the general political situation. Senator Martin spoke by invitation of the committee.

EXPECTS E. LEE TRINKLE
TO WIN IN NINTH

Senator Martin also expects Mr. Trinkle to win out for Congress in the Ninth District over Representative C. Bascom Slemmons.

"If the Ninth District," he said, "isn't swung into the Democratic column this time, it will be the fault of the other nine districts in the State. We will surely win, if we work. Our chances are better today than they have been, certainly within the last ten years. Let's throw all our strength into the campaign. The Democrats out there are worth it. Though they have tasted defeat time and time again, they never have become discouraged, and are just as loyal and patriotic now as they ever were."

"I am going into the district myself and do everything in my power to help our able, aggressive candidate. If there is one thing I have above another it is to make a speech, but I am ready to make just as many as the committee wants me to. Senator Swanson, I know, will do the same thing. Congressman Flood already has been out there, and I am sure he is willing to go again. Other Congressmen are ready."

Lieutenant-Governor J. Taylor Ellison was equally as confident as Senator Martin.

"I have been to the Ninth District," he said, "and those folks out there are really in earnest, and are firm in the belief that they are going to win. There is a ray of optimism that you can't get away from. And they will win, with the proper support. I, as a private in the ranks, am ready to go anywhere at any time."

"As to the success of the national ticket, the skies were never brighter. Success is already assured. All the argument is on Wilson's side. We have only got to state facts. I feel confident of the Ninth District, and of the nation."

CONGRESSMAN FLOOD
IS VERY OPTIMISTIC

"The Democrats of the Ninth," said Congressman Hal D. Flood, "are not only hopeful, but they are enthusiastic. I spoke Monday and Tuesday in Jonesville and Gate City. There was a larger attendance at the Gate City meeting than at a Republican assembly held in the same town at the same hour. I believe Senator Trinkle will carry the district."

The committee, by a unanimous vote, selected George C. Peery, a practicing attorney of Frazeeville, to succeed Senator Trinkle, who resigned to become a candidate for Congress as elector-at-large from Virginia. Dr. J. D. Buchanan, of Smyth, nominated Mr. Peery, and W. D. Cardwell, of Hanover, moved that it be unanimous. Mr. Peery is a graduate of Emory and Henry College and of the University of Virginia. Samuel L. Kelly is the other elector-at-large from Virginia.

The committee adopted a motion made by Judge R. T. W. Duke, Jr., of Charlottesville, giving the district committee power to fill any vacancies in the electoral college that may occur in the districts, and to the State chairman the authority to fill any vacancy caused by the disqualification of an elector-at-large.

COMMITTEE TO REDRAFT
PARTY PRIMARY PLAN

Chairman James was authorized also, on the adoption of a motion made by W. D. Cardwell, to appoint a committee of three to redraft the party primary plan to conform with the State primary law. The draft of the committee will be presented by the next State convention for approval.

The meeting of the committee last night was the first held since its reorganization at Roanoke, when Lieutenant-Governor J. Taylor Ellison, for many years its chairman, relinquished leadership to Rorer A. James, of Danville. Many of the State's most prominent Democrats were present. All of them were optimistic over the Democratic outlook. Senator Swanson was

(Continued on Second Page.)

MAY PROPOSE PLAN OF BORDER PATROL

American Commissioners Confer
With Bliss on Methods of
Insuring Peace.

STUDY OF TAXATION DECREES

Everything That Concerns Life
of Mexican Nation Being
Gone Into.

NEW LONDON, CONN., September 13.—Surrections as to what methods shall be employed to establish peace on the Mexican border were submitted today to Major-General Tasker H. Bliss, United States Army, by the American members of the American-Mexican joint commission. The officer's opinions were sought on subjects ranging from the withdrawal of American troops from Mexico to the possibility of creating an international police to guard the border.

The joint commission dealt today with questions raised by taxation decrees issued by General Carranza which affect American-controlled mining properties in Mexico. An exhaustive study of the situation was begun. The Mexican commissioners explained in detail the purposes of the decrees, insisting that they were designed to promote the mining industry, not to drive out American capital and confiscate its holdings.

In their conference with General Bliss, the American commissioners took under consideration the advisability of proposing such a system of border patrol that a part of the Mexican troops now engaged in this duty would be released for the pursuit of bandits at a distance from the line. They considered also the attitude of American living along the border, as reported by General Bliss, and obtained from that officer estimates as to the number of soldiers necessary to put into effect any of the plans that have been suggested.

PROBABLY UNIQUE IN HISTORY
OF INTERNATIONAL BODIES

Discussing the wider aspects of the commission's work, Secretary Lane said to-night it was probably unique in the history of international bodies in that it was going into all that concerned the life of a nation, its economic problems, its political struggles and every phase of government. It was possible, he said, that no conclusions could be reached as to many of the things discussed. He added, however, that the Mexicans would have knowledge of the views held in the United States as a result of the deliberations, while the American commissioners were gaining a wide knowledge of conditions below the border.

Even the international responsibilities of Mexico were being talked over, Mr. Lane said, and it was necessary that all these things should be considered, in order that an enduring government should be set up in the distressed republic.

A statement issued to-night said that the complaints of American mining interests in Mexico had led to the present investigation. In explaining the decrees complained of, the Mexican commissioners pointed out, the statement asserted, that one of the main purposes which the Carranza government had in view was to prevent speculative and unproductive monopolization of mining lands by individuals and companies. The Carranza government, it was said, virtually has reversed the system in operation during the Diaz regime.

SYSTEM IN OPERATION
REVERSED BY CARRANZA

Under the Diaz plan, the rate of taxation on mining claims diminished in direct ratio to the number of claims, whereas under the Carranza plan the purpose is to encourage the staking of relatively small number of claims which will be actually operated and to discourage the holding of large tracts of mining land simply for speculative purposes.

Another series of complaints had to do with the attempts of the Carranza government to currency merchants to accept paper currency at a rate far in excess of its current value. The attitude of the Mexican commissioners was directed to instances in which military commanders had, through decrees, threatened with death any persons who refused to accept paper currency at its par value, and for a similar offense had also threatened merchants with the confiscation of their property. The Mexican commissioners pointed out that in so vast a country it was humanly impossible to guard against all possible abuses, but they laid emphasis on the fact that, while such extreme decrees had been issued by subordinate military commanders, the national government has constantly urged moderation on the state Governors, and that they had no record of a single instance in which any of these extreme penalties had been inflicted.

SPANNELL HELD FOR MURDER

Alpine Hotel Keeper Indicted for Slaying
of His Wife and Lieutenant-
Colonel Butler.

ALPINE, TEX., September 13.—Indictments charging Harry J. Spannall, an Alpine hotel keeper, with the murder of his wife and Lieutenant-Colonel M. C. Butler, Sixth United States Cavalry, were returned by a county grand jury here today. Spannall was brought here on Thursday from El Paso, where he has been held for safekeeping, to plead to the indictments.

Mrs. Spannall, a daughter of John C. Holland, a widely known Texas ranchman and banker, and Colonel Butler were killed on July 20 last while they were driving with Spannall in his motor car.

FRIEND OF ENTENTE SUCCEEDS ZAIMIS

Dimitracopulos Asked by King of
Greece to Form New
Cabinet.

VENIZELOS MAY GET PLACE

New Premier Thinks Departure
From Neutrality Only Remedy
for Present Situation.

LONDON, September 11.—Athens dispatches say that the former Minister of Justice, M. Dimitracopulos, after reaching an understanding with the King, will put his views before the entente ministers and let their attitude determine whether he will accept the premiership.

M. Dimitracopulos is of the opinion that the departure from neutrality is the only remedy for the present situation. He recalls the Greco-Turkish War, when Premier Delandinos incurred all risks to re-establish unity in the nation, divided then as now.

It is reported that M. Dragomiris, formerly Minister at Petrograd, will be Foreign Minister to the Dimitracopulos Cabinet.

King Constantine, after pleading in vain with Alexander Zaimis to rescind his resignation, finally accepted it today, and promptly requested Dimitracopulos to form a Cabinet. The appointment at first felt in entente quarters because Venizelos, the alleged "strong man" in Greece, had not returned to the premiership, was dispelled by the general prediction that he will be asked to take the portfolio of War Minister by Dimitracopulos, who is his friend.

FINAL COURSE OF ACTION
MUST BE DETERMINED

Meanwhile the new Prime Minister promptly proceeded to proclaim that his government will be one of deeds, not words. He characterized the policy of former Cabinets as "detestable," and said further:

"Now or never must Greece decide her final course of action. She must decide to remain neutral or intervene on the side of the entente. This has been made necessary by Romania's intervention."

Extra editions of Athens newspapers, telling the news of Dimitracopulos's appointment, recalled that when Romania entered the war, he urged that Greece should abandon her neutrality. Detailed news of what is going on in the Hellenic campaign in this great crisis has ever passed through the since the outbreak of the war, is unobtainable because of the strict censorship exercised by both the Greek government and the allies.

PRELIMINARY TO ENTRANCE
OF GREECE INTO WAR

The belief is entertained in the entente capitals that the retirement of the Zaimis ministry is preliminary to the entrance of Greece into the war. Recent dispatches from Berlin and Vienna show that there also it is regarded as probable Greece will soon abandon neutrality and join the entente powers.

The precise causes which led to the resignation of the ministry have not been disclosed, on account of the exceptionally rigid censorship. A London dispatch on Tuesday said M. Zaimis had complained that internal incidents were preventing him from dealing with the external situation. It is believed in London that his resignation was due to the fact that he accepted the premiership on the understanding that he was to maintain neutrality, and, in view of the Bulgarian occupation of Greek territory, had found this impossible.

Up to the time of the first dispatch announcing that M. Zaimis had presented his resignation, his retirement was unexpected, for it was understood the Premier had assumed dictatorial powers and was in an exceptionally strong position. Political affairs reached a crisis after the Bulgarians invaded Northeastern Greece, and the followers of former Premier Venizelos served warning on King Constantine that he must abandon the advisers who, it was said, had misled him and influenced him in favor of Germany.

At the same time M. Venizelos expressed confidence in M. Zaimis, whom he asked the King to support, and it was understood an agreement had been reached under which the Zaimis ministry was to continue in power, with the strong support of the Venizelos party.

After the fall of the Venizelos Cabinet last October, on account of the King's disagreement with its policy favoring intervention in the war with the allies, M. Zaimis was called on to form a Cabinet. He announced a policy of armed neutrality. The Cabinet resigned in November, but in June M. Zaimis was again placed at the head of the government. Although acknowledging neutrality, he was regarded as having a predisposition toward the entente.

RATE HEARINGS CONCLUDED

New England Railroads Propose to
Cancel Certain Tariffs on Through
Consignments to South.

NEW YORK, September 13.—Hearings on the proposal of New England railroads to cancel proportional and trans-shipment freight rates on through consignments to Southern and Western points were concluded here today before Examiner William A. Disque, of the Interstate Commerce Commission. Representatives of New England in the hearings declared that if the present rates were increased it would injure shipments to New Orleans, Texas and Pacific Coast points. The Old Dominion Steamship Company and the Clyde and Mallory lines contend the proposed new railroad rates would force them to withdraw from competition or to charge higher tariffs.

Dr. Robert Bryan Back From France

Richmond Surgeon Returns to
America on French Liner
La Touraine.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] NEW YORK, September 13.—Dr. R. C. Bryan, of Richmond, head of Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney's hospital at Juilly, France, who arrived this evening by the French liner La Touraine from Bordeaux, said that since the French soldiers had been using the steel helmet, there had been high mortality from wounds in the head, just below the protection of the helmet.

Before the adoption of the helmet many who were hit in the skull recovered. The security of the helmet prompted during ones to risk their lives by ridding their heads too high above the trenches.

Dr. Joseph A. Blake, the New York surgeon who has been operating on the wounded in France since the war started, is ill at the hospital at Ris-Oranges, according to Dr. A. Desjardins, his assistant, who also arrived on the La Touraine. Dr. Desjardins said Dr. Blake was stricken the day before he left the hospital on September 1, and he was surprised that no word of Dr. Blake's illness had been cabled here.

Other American surgeons who were abroad were Dr. D. J. Morton, of Philadelphia; Dr. J. W. Macclaran, of Tennessee; Dr. Samuel P. East, of Virginia, and Dr. Parsons.

FRANCE MAY SELL ART WORKS

New York Hids Fair to Become Home
of Many Famous Masterpieces.

[Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.] PARIS, September 13.—New York bids fair to become the home of many of the masterpieces now hanging in the Louvre and Luxembourg museums. The sale of these gems in the world of art was proposed to-day by Urbain Gohier, in order to restore France's trade balance with America.

"America has become a formidable industrial power," he said. "She is sheaping up prodigious wealth after the war to play a great role in the world's affairs."

"France can recover a portion of her specie by selling America what she wants of our art masterpieces. We have long sold Americans fakes and worthless paintings. Let us now sell her works of art, certified by our museum directors. We possess an enormous surplus of old masters and moderns. Our museums are becoming so overloaded they hold more than we want. Let us thin out the Louvre and Luxembourg collections for America's benefit and make room for the continuous stream of works we are always acquiring."

COMFORT KITS NEEDED

Red Cross Makes Appeal on Behalf of
American Troops on
Border.

WASHINGTON, September 13.—An appeal for donations of comfort kits for the use of the American troops on the Mexican border was made by the American Red Cross today. It was issued in response to a request from the Red Cross supply depot at El Paso, which said the comfort kits were needed more than anything else by the troops.

In a general announcement concerning the needs of the troops, the Red Cross suggests that no more donations of abdominal bands, typhus bags and goggles be sent to the border.

TO REPLACE FALLEN SPAN

St. Lawrence Bridge Company Accepts
Full Responsibility for
Accident.

OTTAWA, ONT., September 13.—The St. Lawrence Bridge Company has notified the Canadian government that it accepts full responsibility for the fall of the Quebec bridge span, and gave notice that it would undertake to replace the span and complete the bridge as soon as possible.

With steel scarce, it is believed it will take two years to construct a new span.

It was stated definitely that no attempt will be made to raise the fallen span, as it will be cheaper to build a new one.

SEAPLANES ATTACK VENICE

Church, Home for Aged and Several
Private Buildings Slightly
Damaged.

ROME, September 13 (via Paris, September 14).—A group of enemy seaplanes attacked Venice between 1:30 and 2:30 o'clock on Tuesday morning, dropping incendiary and explosive bombs. The Church of San Giovanni Paolo, the Home for the Aged and several private buildings were slightly damaged. There were no casualties.

Bombs also were dropped on Chioggia, setting fires which were quickly extinguished.

PAGE AT ITALIAN FRONT

American Ambassador to Be Guest of
Supreme Command of Army
During Week's Visit.

UPINE, ITALY, September 13.—Thomas Nelson Page, the American ambassador, arrived here today for his visit to the Austro-Italian front. He was accompanied by Captain Elvin R. Heiberg, military attaché, and Lieutenant-Commander Charles Russell Train, naval attaché of the embassy. They were received by both the military and civil authorities, and will be guests of the supreme command of the Italian army while they remain at the front, which will be about a week.

RICHMOND MAKES STRONG SHOWING BEFORE DANIELS

Impressive Facts Submitted
for Armor-Plate Fac-
tory Location.

BIDS ALSO PRESENTED
BY 125 OTHER CITIES

John Kerr Branch and S. T. Mor-
gan Act as Spokesmen for
Capital Delegation.

FORMAL BRIEF SUBMITTED
Action on Selection of Site Not Prob-
able Until After Novem-
ber Election.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] WASHINGTON, September 13.—Richmond to-day laid its claim to the \$11,000,000 government armor-plate plant before Secretary of Navy Josephus Daniels in a presentation of fact and argument as conclusive as any of the forty-eight cities which are regarded as seriously competing for this great enterprise, though the claims of 101 cities will be placed before the secretary.

The Virginia capital sent a delegation representing the best interests of the city and State to Washington, and for more than half an hour the spokesmen of the committee re-enforced the statements made in the formal brief submitted to the secretary.

The secretary announced at the outset that he would call the roll of States alphabetically to prevent confusion, but at 12:30 he stated that by an earlier arrangement he had agreed to hear Richmond out of order. Thereupon John Kerr Branch, chairman of the Richmond committee, and S. T. Morgan, president of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company, stated Richmond's case, the former reading Richmond's brief.

Surrounding these two spokesmen were the other members of the committee, Senators Martin and Swanson, Representative Montague and representatives of the other Virginia cities which have entered the contest for the plant. The greater body of the Richmonders arrived in Washington shortly before 11 o'clock aboard a special train. They went straight to the office of Secretary Daniels, stopping for a few minutes en route at the Hotel Willard.

MAJOR AINSIE AND OTHERS
ALSO JOIN COMMITTEE

At Mr. Daniels's office the committee was joined by Mayor Ainslie, W. T. Dabney, John C. Freeman, Augustine Royall and W. H. Adams, who came over from Philadelphia, where they have been in attendance upon the meeting of the Atlantic Deep Waterway Association.

That Richmond's brief made a profound impression upon Secretary Daniels and the staff of rear-admirals who participated in the hearing was evident to anybody. Clearly and forcefully it pointed out the strategic advantages of Richmond for this plant. It pointed to that city's proximity to cheap fuel, on the one hand, and to the great naval-construction centers, on the other. It showed that the city was absolutely immune from hostile attack and was protected against fleet attacks by the very same fortifications that stand guard over the national capital itself.

The whole hearing room, though in a state of confusion most of the time, listened with the closest attention to the Richmond brief, representatives of other cities near and remote, realizing that an unanswerable case was being made in behalf of the Virginia capital.

MORGAN CITES OTHER
RICHMOND ADVANTAGES

Mr. Morgan cited still other advantages in favor of Richmond. His address was brief, but he ably supported the brief. He spoke of satisfactory labor conditions, of unparalleled health conditions and of shipping facilities unexcelled by any city, North or South.

When the Richmonders arrived in Washington to-day they found that ten other Virginia